

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: :  
 :  
Jean-Marie Blanchar :  
 :  
Serial No.: To be assigned : Art Unit: To be assigned  
 :  
Filed: Herewith : Examiner: To be assigned  
 :  
For: ASSEMBLY SYSTEM BASED ON A : Atty Docket: 21065/0160  
BALL ANCHORING DEVICE :

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-captioned case as follows.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Kindly amend claim 11 as follows:

11. (Amended) Process for producing an assembly system in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that an attaching device in accordance with one of claims 7 to 10 is offered up opposite the holes (7, 8) in the surfaces of the parts (5, 2) to be assembled, with the piston (20) in the released position and the snap ring (17) covering the balls; an axial thrust force (F) is applied to the protruding end (28) of the piston so as to insert the body (10) of the device into the holes until the balls (16) are situated partly below the unobstructed surface (82) of the surface (9) of the second part, with snap ring (17) being retained by one of the surfaces, the thrust force is maintained to compress the spring

thrust element (18) between the flange (12) and the surface (55) of the first part, and then move the piston (20) to the locked position.

### REMARKS

The claims have been amended to eliminate multiple dependency and to improve their format. None of these amendments is believed to involve any new matter. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the foregoing amendments be entered, that the application as so amended receive an examination on the merits, and that the claims as now presented receive an early allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date:

## MARKED-UP REVISIONS

### IN THE CLAIMS:

11. (Amended) Process for producing an assembly system in accordance with [one of claims 1 to 6] claim 1, characterized in that an attaching device in accordance with one of claims 7 to 10 is offered up opposite the holes (7, 8) in the surfaces of the parts (5, 2) to be assembled, with the piston (20) in the released position and the snap ring (17) covering the balls; an axial thrust force (F) is applied to the protruding end (28) of the piston so as to insert the body (10) of the device into the holes until the balls (16) are situated partly below the unobstructed surface (82) of the surface (9) of the second part, with snap ring (17) being retained by one of the surfaces, the thrust force is maintained to compress the spring thrust element (18) between the flange (12) and the surface (55) of the first part, and then move the piston (20) to the locked position.